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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

--4. (Amended) Sorbent material according to [one of Claims 1 to 3] Claim 1, characterized in that the oleophilic coating predominantly comprises, in particular essentially, silicone(s).

5. (Amended) Sorbent material according to [one of the preceding claims] Claim 1, characterized in that the said coating is provided in a quantity of about 0.01 to about 1.0%, in particular from 0.05 to 0.5% by weight of silicone(s) relative to the weight of the fibres.

6. (Amended) Sorbent material according to [one of the preceding claims] Claim 1, characterized in that the said coating comprises, in addition, at least one agent for removing dust, in particular in the form of oil(s).

8. (Amended) Sorbet material according to [one of the preceding claims] Claim 1, characterized in that it is provided with an oleophilic coating, in that it is capable of absorbing at least from 15 to 50 times its weight of oils or hydrocarbons which have in particular a viscosity of between 8000 and 15,000 centipoises and in that it has a high floatability with respect to water.

9. (Amended) Method for manufacturing a sorbent material according to [one of the preceding claims] claim 1 characterized in that a quantity of fibrous material, in particular

unbound, is selected, and in that it is at least partially coated with an oleophilic coating predominantly comprising, in particular essentially, silicone(s).

11. (Amended) Process according to Claim 9 [or Claim 10], characterized in that an emulsion containing the silicone(s) is sprayed onto the fibrous material already in the form of a cushion.

12. (Amended) Application of the sorbent material combined with an oleophilic coating according to [one of Claims 1 to 8 or obtained according to the method in accordance with one of Claims 9 to 11] Claim 1 to the depollution of stretches of water with oils/hydrocarbons, as filtration material, or for absorbing used engine oils/hydrocarbons for vehicles.

13. (Amended) Sorbent material according to [one of Claims 1 to 3] Claim 1, characterized in that the quantity of hydrophilic particulate material is about 5 per cent by weight to about 20 per cent by weight, relative to the weight of the fibrous material.

14. (Amended) Sorbent material according to [one of Claims 1 to 3 or according to Claim 13] Claim 1, characterized in that the hydrophilic particulate material is chosen from the group consisting of modified starches, acrylic polymers with high molecular weight having hydrophilic groups, a crosslinked polyacrylamide, a crosslinked sulphonated polystyrene, crosslinked polyacrylates, crosslinked polymethacrylates, crosslinked copolymers of acrylates and of methacrylates, and mixtures thereof.

15. (Amended) Sorbent material according to [one of Claims 1 to 3 or either of Claims 13 and 14] Claim 1, characterized in that the mean particle size of the particulate material is between 50 and 3000 micrometres, in particular between 75 and 1500 micrometres.

16. (Amended) Sorbent material according to [one of Claims 13 to 15] Claim 13, characterized in that it is capable of absorbing at least between 10 and 20 times its weight of water if it uses an inbound fibrous material, and at least between 20 and 40 times its weight of water if it uses a bound fibrous material.

17. (Amended) Method of manufacturing a sorbent material according to [one of Claims 1 to 3 or according to one of Claims 13 to 16] Claim 1, characterized in that a quantity of fibrous material and a quantity of particulate material are selected, and in that a homogeneous dispersion of the particulate material in the fibrous material is obtained by mechanical stirring.

18. (Amended) Method of manufacturing a sorbent material according to [one of Claims 1 to 3 or according to one of Claims 13 to 16] Claim 1, characterized in that the particulate material is introduced in the form of a colloidal suspension into the fibrous material.

19. (Amended) Application of the sorbent material combined with a hydrophilic particulate material according to [one of Claims 1 to 3 or 13 to 16 or obtained according to the method in accordance with Claim 17 or Claim 18] Claim 1 to the absorption of organic solvents of the trichloroethylene type or to the absorption of pollutants soluble in water such as paint, cooling liquid and industrial effluents.--